

Nation

The Nation IN STANDING **ROCK**

Power vs. Water

Land Locked

Renard Mine Opening

\$2.50

Free in Iyiyuuschii

Serving Iyiyuuschii since 1993

Canada Post Publication No. 40015005

MISTISSINI

NEOSKWESKAU COMPLEX



Regional General Assembly

Լ Լ.ՃՇՐԺ.Ճ
 ԲԻՈԼՆ.Ճ ԵՐ
 ԴԴԵԻՐՆ

OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS STUDENT SUCCESS

[illegible]

What you can expect

ἰ·ῶ ἰ <·ῶ"ἵ



Highlights from the 2015-2016 Annual Report

4^a 1.6^a 2.7^a 3^a
 1.01.14^a 1.01.14^a 1.01.14^a
 1.01.14^a 1.01.14^a 1.01.14^a



Unveiling of the 2016-2021 Strategic Action Plan

ሲ፡ፋለ፡ጠራ፡ፋሙ፡ሷ ሲ፡ፋ፡ ሲ
 ሾ፡ፋ፡ፋለ፡ፋሙ፡ሷ ፋ፡ፋ ሲ፡ፋ
 ፋ፡ፋ ፋ፡ፋ፡ፋሙ፡ሷ 2016-2021



*Dialogue on Cree
Education and Cree
School Board services*

ስ ልጋር ልጋራ
 ስጋጠረጠጡ ስጋ ልጋራ
 ስጋጠረጠጡ ስጋ ልጋራ

THE EVENT WILL BE BROADCAST AND STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

Contact Nian Matoush
(418) 923-2764, extension 1274
or nianmatoush@cscree.qc.ca



Take our survey and help us plan a great event!

To share your questions and ideas, follow the link on our homepage at www.cscree.qc.ca

CONTENTS



5 | Customary adoption
legalized in Quebec



9 | Stornoway officially
opens Renard mine



10 | *The Nation* at Standing Rock



18 | Students of
Standing Rock



20 | Muskrat Falls protest
shut down by courts

EDITORIAL

A horse called injustice 4

NEWS

Legal at last 5

Land locked 7

IN BRIEF

8

FEATURES

Water is life 10

Teach the children well 18

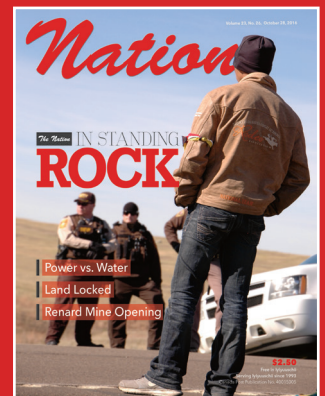
Power vs. Water 20

REZ NOTES

Hallowed weather 25

UTNS

Here's to your health 26



Cover photo by
Will Nicholls

Send us your **cellphone number** to be included
for FREE in the James Bay Cree Telephone Book.



514-272-3077 | info@beesum.com | www.beesum.com

A horse called **injustice**

by Will Nicholls



There has rarely been a bigger display of intertribal solidarity than what we are now seeing in the protests at the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota. It is an important fight for the Sioux people and one that has seen tribes from all over the Americas come together. It also includes non-Native people who are concerned and opening their hearts to embrace a cause that affects more than an Aboriginal concern.

Nation writer Dan Isaac and I visited the area October 7-11. Upon arriving, we were given the opportunity to ride a horse I fancifully named Injustice. I would have liked to ride that hellacious creature to the ground leaving it heaving and steaming in the chill of a coming winter.

Admittedly, it's wishful thinking. Injustice's prettier sister Justice is running free across the North Dakota plains. But it looks like Injustice is galloping ahead – if the repression of peaceful assemblies and prayer gatherings and mass arrests of peaceful protesters is a gauge of this race.

The ramping up of charges against the water protectors (as they call themselves) at Standing Rock is nothing less than intimidation. At first, charges involved simple trespass, but now people are being charged with inciting a riot. To say that of people who committed no property damage, injured no one and were trained to be non-violent seems to be not in keeping with what we all understand a riot to be. To see a peaceful elderly woman charged with this crime was wrong.

We saw renowned Democracy Now journalist Amy Goodman charged with rioting by the State of North Dakota, which claimed her journalism was invalid because it didn't report the story they wanted. That is injustice. It goes against the principles of free speech and freedom of expression. There is a danger in allowing the state to decide who is a journalist and what they can write. It goes against the entire concept of a democratic society. While the charges were recently dropped, other journalists have faced similar charges and had their equipment seized.

An Iowa farmer, Cyndy Coppola, was arrested on her own property after attempting to block trucks accessing her land. She said Dakota Access gained rights to be on her property against her and her family's will by using Eminent Domain to get easements to the property.

"We are holding the line against the DAPL and its sordid attempt to put our communities and water at risk of contamination," said Indigenous Environmental Network Executive Director Tom B.K. Goldtooth, who is a recipient of the Gandhi Peace Award. "With this duty in mind, it is deplorable that not only must we fear physical harm by

the excessive use of force and inflated actions of law enforcement, we now face persecution for enacting our First Amendment rights to document the destruction of our sacred sites, record police arrests, and hold oil corporations accountable for their actions. We demand an apology for the clear disregard of those rights."

While there I saw police officers and county sheriffs refuse to identify themselves or give badge numbers. This is illegal in both Canada and the United States. Justice denied is injustice and that is true whether or not you are charged with upholding the law. If those we give that power to cannot follow the law then the anarchy they are worried about is already here.

Fortunately there are those willing to ride the horse of justice and thousands have traveled to Standing Rock to protect the water.

The Nation would like to thank the Grand Council of the Cree for sponsoring the trip to Standing Rock.

0% ON 84 MONTHS FINANCING OCA*

*Details available in store

GARANTIE GRATUITE DU GROUPE MOTOPROPULSEUR DE 6 ANS 3000 H

MEGA CENTRE Kubota

819-874-1138
megacentrekubota.com
1885, 3^e Avenue, Val-d'Or Qc



the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications. **EDITORIAL BOARD** L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, M. Siberok, Mr. N. Diamond, E. Webb **EDITOR IN CHIEF** Will Nicholls **DIRECTOR OF FINANCES** Linda Ludwick **EDITORS** Lyle Stewart, Martin Siberok, Amy German **PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR** Joshua Grant **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** W. Nicholls, X. Kataquapit, S. Orr, D. Isaac, J. Grant, J. Staniforth, P. Wheeland **DESIGN** Matthew Dessner **SALES AND ADVERTISING** Danielle Valade, Wendall Gull, Viola-Rose Day **THANKS TO: Air Creebec**

CONTACT US: The Nation, 4529 CLARK, #403, Montreal, QC., H2T 2T3 **EDITORIAL & ADS:** Tel.: 514-272-3077, Fax: 514-278-9914 **HEAD OFFICE:** P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi, QC. J0M 1E0 www.nationnews.ca **EDITORIAL:** nation@nationnews.ca news@nationnews.ca **ADS:** Danielle Valade: ads@nationnews.ca Wendall Gull: wendall@nationnews.ca Viola-Rose Day: viola@nationnews.ca **SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$60 plus taxes, US: \$90, Abroad: \$110, Payable to beesum communications, all rights reserved, publication mail #40015005, issn #1206-2642 **The Nation is a member of:** The James Bay Cree Communications Society, Circle Of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers, Magazines Canada Quebec Community Newspaper Assn. Canadian Newspapers Assn. Les Hebdomadaires Du Québec.



Legal at last

Bella Moses Petawabano at Quebec National Assembly

Longtime Cree tradition of customary adoption positioned to receive legal recognition

by Joshua Grant



Stéphanie Vallée

Quebec government began an overdue overhaul of outdated adoption laws by introducing Bill 113 in the National Assembly October 6. The bill aims to bring more transparency to the adoption process by amending Quebec's Civil Code and the Youth Protection Act and more importantly for the Cree and other First Nations, it would legally recognize the longstanding tradition of customary adoption.

"This is a historic step to see the Civil Code amended to recognize Aboriginal customary adoption," Quebec Justice Minister Stéphanie Vallée said following the tabling of the bill.

While customary adoption received recognition in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement of 1975, provincial adoption laws didn't officially recognize the practice. The Cree Nation Government (CNG) has been pushing for amendments to Quebec regulations concerning adoption since

the 1980s as customary adoption is an intrinsic part of Indigenous culture and often necessary for the survival and well-being of young First Nations children.

"For the Cree of Eeyou Istchee, customary adoption has been practised for generations and generations, and continues to be practised today," said Bella Moses Petawabano, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services chairperson following the announcement.

"It was a matter of survival for the people for hundreds of years," added Melissa Saganash, the CNG's Director of Cree-Quebec Relations. "Each First Nation or Inuit community has its own methods...its own system of customary adoption. [This bill] when it's passed into law, is going to properly attest to a customary adoption, giving it a legal effect."

Saganash also noted the difficulties adoptees and adoptive parents within Native communities have faced within the current Quebec system, one that is shrouded in secrecy.

"Try registering a child at school, for whom you don't have identification,"

she said. "Or going to the hospital or clinic. Or just being the legal guardian of a child and having that recognized."

If passed, Bill 113 will recognize Aboriginal customary adoptions "carried out according to a custom that is in harmony with the principles of the interests of the child, the protection of the child's rights and the consent of the persons concerned."

The amendments would also permit rights and obligations to be upheld between the adopted child and his/her family of origin, in accordance with tradition.

In addition to recognizing traditional adoption practices, Bill 113 seeks to allow adopted children to maintain "meaningful" connections with their birth parents, bring international adoptions into compliance with Quebec's Civil Code and improve access to information for adopted children who want to know more about their birth parents.

"Customary adoption is an integral part of Cree culture and identity," concluded Petawabano. "This is a bill the Cree Nation can proudly support."



BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

We have what your business needs



PRINT



PROMO



SIGNAGE



TRANSLATION

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTE!

514-272-3077 | info@beesum.com | beesum.com



James Bay Telephone Book 2017

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Special Vintage Pricing

Ad space starting
as low as \$799
for the Whole Year!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Danielle Valade (Sales Representative)
Tel: (514) 272-3077
ads@nationnews.ca
www.beesum.com

INVITATION

SECRÉTARIAT AUX
ALLIANCES ÉCONOMIQUES
NATION CRIE
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE



SECRETARIAT TO
THE CREE NATION
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Business Exchange Day

November 30, 2016

Hotel Forestel, Val-d'Or

OVER 700 BUSINESS MEETINGS



TWO WEEKS LEFT TO REGISTER!

Join us to connect
entrepreneurs and communities
with the private sector
to create business opportunities!

TO REGISTER OR FOR
MORE INFORMATION:

Secretariat to the Cree Nation
Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance

624, 3^e Avenue, Val-d'Or (Quebec) J9P 1S5

Tel.: 819-824-9888 Fax: 819-824-9588

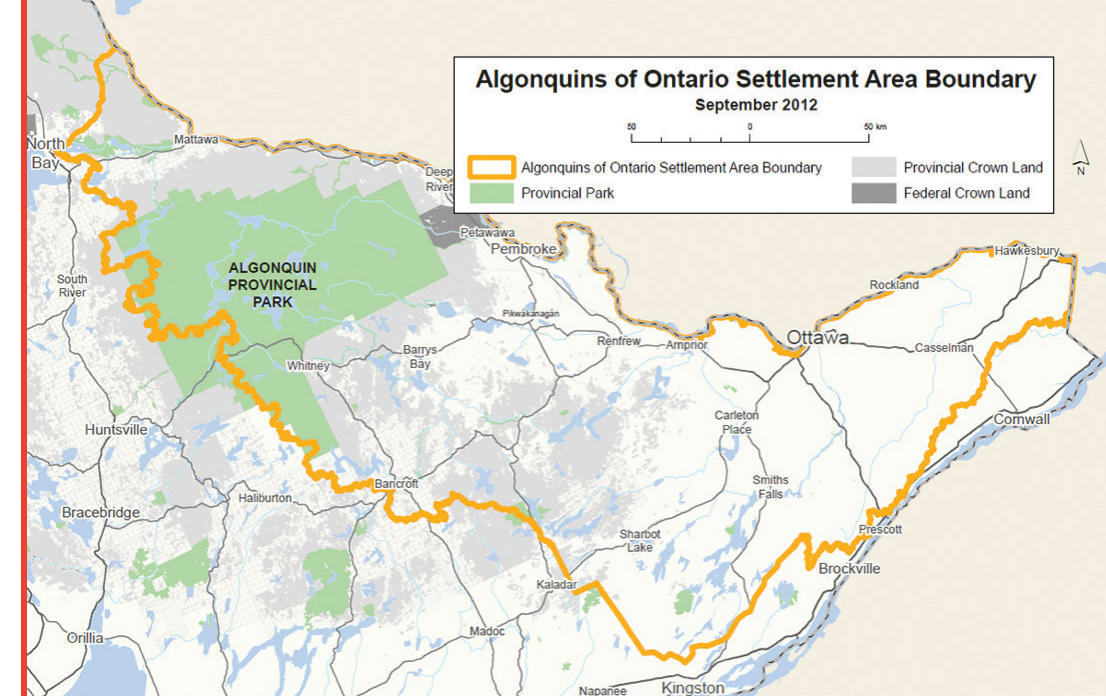
reception@creenation-at.com

www.creenation-at.com/Events

SEE YOU THERE!

Land Locked

by Joshua Grant



Algonquins on either side of the Ottawa River at odds over land settlement

Iroquois and Algonquin chiefs in Ontario and Quebec are denouncing as “fraudulent and illegal” a land agreement recently reached between the federal and Ontario governments and a group called the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO).

The tentative treaty concerns approximately 36,000 square kilometres of land reaching from Ottawa to North Bay, including 117,500 acres of provincial crown land that would be transferred over to 10 Algonquin communities, along with a \$300 million settlement. Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett signed the agreement with the AOO and Ontario representatives October 18.

Four Algonquin chiefs in Quebec and the Iroquois caucus representing seven Iroquois communities in Ontario and Quebec are openly opposed to the deal, arguing that their territorial rights are being ignored and that the majority of AOO members’ claims to Algonquin ancestry are tenuous at best.

“The Algonquins of Ontario do not have the moral or legal obliga-

tion to negotiate away all the rights of the Algonquin people,” said Lance Haymond, Chief of the Kebaowek First Nation north of Témiscaming.

According to Haymond, the AOO “are not Algonquin at all,” they are simply claiming a loose connection to an Algonquin “root ancestor.” In an interview with CBC, Haymond said that many of the AOO who are eligible to vote on the land claim have not had any intermarriage with Algonquins for more than 200 years.

An illegal deal has been made,

Kahnawake Grand Chief Joe Norton did not mince words, calling the deal “fraudulent” and “illegal” at a recent news conference.

“An illegal deal has been made,” he said, “to bring in people who are not Algonquins, who are not in any way attached to the land, who have not strived and struggled for centuries to try and maintain the integrity of the lands within Ontario.”

Norton also noted that while the claim includes land traditionally occupied by the Iroquois, they have “more or less been pushed aside for people

who have no right to any of this territory.”

When discussions surrounding the land settlement were initially launched in 2013, the Quebec First Nations of Wolf Lake, Eagle Village and Timiskaming all said they would protest the deal with a land claim of their own. Jean Guy Whiteduck from Kitigan Zibi is also on record stating that the Algonquin Nations of Quebec must be involved in the settlement for it to be valid.

Robert Potts, the principal negotiator for the AOO, stated that non-status Algonquin descendants were included in the settlement in order to address the historic injustice of bands not recognized under the Indian Act. He assured that strict criteria are in place to determine Algonquin ancestry, verified by a genealogist, a ratification committee and a retired judge.

While the recent signing is only the first step in a process that will take several years to negotiate, if the AOO land settlement is successful it would be Ontario’s first constitutionally protected treaty.



We Know Our Stuff

GET WHAT YOU NEED TO GET ACTIVE TODAY



Our 12,000 sq. ft. store is one of the largest sporting goods retailers in the region, offering an expanding selection of firearms, along with name brand sports apparel and footwear.

We do C.O.D.

Contact Information

155 Amanda Street
Mistissini, QC G0W 1C0
www.creesports.com

Tel: 418-923-2733
Fax: 418-923-2704
creesports@lino.com

Every Set of Lost Keys Has a Story

"We lost our keys at a hockey game out of town, including our expensive-to-replace smart key for the car.

Our War Amps key tag did its job when our keys were returned to us last week by courier, much to our relief."

— War Amps supporter

The Key Tag Service – it's free and it works. Nearly 13,000 sets of lost keys are returned every year.

Order key tags online.



The War Amps
1 800 250-3030
waramps.ca

The War Amps does not receive government grants.
Charitable Registration No.:
13196 9628 RR0001



Photo provided by the Grand Council of the Crees



Caribou management talks continue

The Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART) convened for the sixth time last month, meeting at Indian House Lake September 7-9 to discuss and advance their management strategy for the George River and Leaf River caribou herds.

Critical to the agenda was addressing the continued decline and endangered status of the George River herd. UPCART stated in a press release that all options are on the table to ensure food security while also preserving and respecting cultural and spiritual relations with the caribou in northern territory.

UPCART says their draft management strategy was advanced significantly and they are committed to adopting said management strategy by the end of autumn. All members expressed the importance of managing the Ungava herds for this generation and next and the management strategy aims to set the founda-

tion for the stewardship of both the George and Leaf River herds.

Also announced was the replacement of interim co-chair Minister Darryl Shiwak of the Nunatsiavut Government. Mark Nui of the Innu Nation joined current co-chair and vice president of the Makivik Corporation Delisle Alaku at the helm of UPCART.

"Mark brings a wealth of knowledge and excellent moderation skills to the chairmanship," stated a Cree Nation Government press release.

The Ungava Caribou Aboriginal Round Table is formed by the Inuit of Nunavik, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, the NunatuKavut Community Council, the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government, the Innu Nation of Labrador and all the Innu communities of Quebec.

Photos and Story by Peter Wheeland



Stornoway celebrates official opening of Renard Mine

Stornoway's Renard Diamond Mine officially opened October 19 marking the launch of a commercial production process expected to last 14 years or more. The open-pit mine sits 250 km north of Mistissini near Lake Lagopede and will provide hundreds of jobs both at the mine and in the communities of Mistissini, Chibougamau and Chapais.

While mining and processing operations have already started, capacity

is slated to double by the end of the year and the facility will employ 450 workers year-round, with more than 40% coming from northern Quebec.

As part of the Mecheshoo Agreement signed with the Grand Council of the Crees and the Cree Nation of Mistissini in 2012, Stornoway Diamonds has prioritized employment for Eeyou Istchee communities in the \$946-million project. The agreement also outlines environmen-

tal protection measures during the mining and plant operation as well as the restoration of the land after the last diamond has been extracted.

On hand to mark the plant inauguration were members of the Swallow family, traditional tallymen of the M11 territory on which the mine is located. Hundreds of guests and employees gathered for the opening were also treated to some cross-cultural entertainment as members of Mistissini's

Big Rock troupe showed off their Gaelic dance prowess.

Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio, speaking in Cree, highlighted the role the Swallow family has played in ensuring that the Cree "values of sharing and respect" continue for generations to come. He thanked the Swallows for their welcome and for opening up opportunities for the larger Cree and northern communities.



Water is Life

Story and photos by Dan Isaac & Will Nicholls



The Nation visits the Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock

The flags of a more than a hundred Indigenous nations dance in the wind at the entrance to the Oceti Sakowin Camp near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota, about 80 kilometres south of the sparsely populated state's largest city, Bismarck. The camp is now an international symbol for Indigenous resistance to extractive and environmentally destructive resource development.

Others are also showing their support. People of every conceivable background have been making their way to the camp to stand with the Standing Rock Sioux in their challenge to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), which would transport fracked oil through sensitive water tables and under the Missouri River. That's why the activists at Standing Rock prefer to be called "water protectors" rather than protestors.

"At different stages there's been three to five thousand people at the camp who have a common goal but different ways to perceive, conceptualize and articulate that goal," Jonnie Aseron, a camp organizer, told two reporters from *the Nation* during a visit October 7-11. "We have culturally safe spaces, without being overt about it, so that we can come to an understanding of what it means to have such different cultural perspectives in the same space."

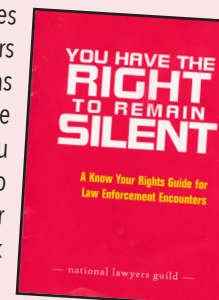
And while people and donations arrive daily, the resistance is shaping up as a David versus Goliath struggle. On the night of October 9, the US Federal Court Of Appeal denied the injunction filed by the

FACTS

The finished pipeline will be 1,172 miles long (1886 km) when finished and will be able to transport up to 570,000 barrels of oil per day.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

This handy little booklet comes from the National Lawyers Guild in the United States as part of their National Police Accountability Project. If you have any plans to head to Standing Rock, North Dakota or anywhere else in the US, check it out at www.nlg.org.



Standing Rock Sioux, which had resulted in a temporary restraining order to DAPL workers within 20 miles of the Missouri River.

In August, North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple, who has close ties to the oil industry, declared a state of emergency over the protest camp. On September 15, The North Dakota Department of Energy Service asked for a \$6 million loan from the Bank of North Dakota to help with law-enforcement efforts.

In early October, the North Dakota Sheriff's department asked for the support of other states to assist in law enforcement efforts. Historically, out-of-state law enforcement has only responded to calls for assistance during natural disasters. But in an unprecedented move, several sheriffs' offices responded to the call. It's not just the amount of police officers in the region that's intensifying. With each passing day, security forces appear increasingly militarized.

"There's definitely been an escalation in police tactics, in many ways, over the last six weeks," said an attorney from the Red Owl Legal Collective, Patricia K. Hammel. "The police were initially charging people with misdemeanors, and trespassing. The accused weren't given huge bonds and everyone would be out of jail fairly quick. Then, as there were more actions and arrests, the police re-filed some of the misdemeanor charges as felonies."

In what has become an iconic image, a man who locked himself to an excavator, Happy American Horse, has fallen victim to this escalation of charges. "Because he had to be removed by a police officer using a cherry picker, his charge went from a misdemeanor to felony obstruction and reckless endangerment," Hammel explained.

Happy American Horse isn't the only water protector affected. "Someone riding a horse got a

LOCAL PIPELINE DEFENDERS

Many who live in this part of North Dakota support the construction of the DAPL for the economic benefits they believe it brings, the prevailing opinion of non-Native North Dakotans. One local resident agreed to be interviewed as long as his identity would be kept secret.

The Nation: You've lived where?

X: In Bismarck for my entire life.

TN: What do you think of the pipeline?

X: I believe it's a good thing. It's going to bring profit to a lot of things. It's going to foresee a lot of things.

It's going to push a lot of value to the pipeline and everything. It's going to bring more prosperity to our region.

TN: Do you see the opportunity for a lot of work?

X: Yes, I see a lot of work. I deliver beer. I see a lot of work, day in and day out. I travel hundreds of miles

every day and I see pipeline workers working their asses off. They are making a living.

TN: Do you see the pipeline as something that will make money for North Dakota?

X: Oh yes, it's a pipeline and we have millions of gallons, barrels of oil in this area. It's

going to bring it to many places that need it.

TN: What's the best thing you can say about it?

X: It's the safest way to transport oil to the masses of people who use it and need it. Yes, we run the risk of jeopardizing the water system and the environment, but there are already pipelines under the Missouri River. It's still safer

than trains, look at Quebec. A pipeline may burst but these are new pipelines, new technology that is safeguarded by so many measures than what was done in the past. When I see news reports none of them seem to mention the existing pipelines. The construction of a pipeline is nothing new to our area so what is the problem? Nobody cared before.



A DAY IN COURT

The *Nation* attended a vigil outside the Morton County Courthouse as a number of arrested water protectors were arraigned. "There's no warrior left behind" is the motto of the Standing Rock legal team. Several charges were dismissed on the grounds that prosecutors were unlikely to provide clear and convincing evidence. When police noticed the lack of no trespassing signs in the area they began to charge protectors with riot charges rather than trespassing charges, leading to an increase in arrests. These charges do not bear the same burden of proof. Close to 150 people have been arrested, including an elderly woman in her 60s, all facing charges of inciting a riot.

FACTS

In the worst-case scenario, a leak from the Dakota Access pipeline would release 19,000 barrels – about 800,000 gallons – of oil at a location near Williston. That is the maximum release on the North Dakota part of the pipeline, according to an analysis Dakota Access was required to complete as part of its permit application with the Public Service Commission.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

In response to emailed questions from *the Nation* to the Morton County Sheriff's Department about outside security assistance, which coordinates the law-enforcement response to the protest camp, Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said his department does have a plan to respond to what he termed "illegal" potential protest activities.

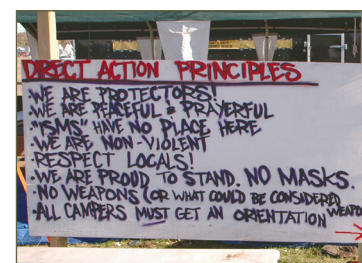
"This is prudent when it comes to what we do and how we prepare for situations," Sheriff Kirchmeier wrote. "While

we have a plan, we do not release details of our operational plans, strategies or confirm the number of officers that we have on hand at any given time to respond."

An October 7 story in the *Bismarck Tribune* reported that Kirchmeier had requested assistance from Sheriff's departments across the US. Already there were 268 officers from other parts of North Dakota who had responded to his call to action.

Kirchmeier has worries though. "There are constitutional rights to assemble to protest in the United States," he noted. "The Morton County Sheriff's Office is here to enable and support those rights. Peaceful protests are not the issue. There are numerous outside groups, some invited and some not... While they may have come in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, they are also pushing their own agendas. Tribal leaders have indicated to law enforcement they want a peaceful protest. However,

NON-VIOLENCE



The Standing Rock camp provides training workshops for frontline water protectors and has onsite lawyers to assist anyone who is arrested. The training helps people facing arrest keep their calm. Non-violent resistance is repeatedly stressed to new arrivals. The main camp does not allow alcohol, drugs or firearms.

terrorism charge," Hammel said, amazed. "The DAPL employees have been claiming that they've been terrorized by the water protectors and the police have been taking those claims seriously and escalating the charges."

A direct action on October 10 saw 29 water protectors arrested, including actress Shailene Woodley, who was taken into custody while walking to her RV.

The majority of arrests took place in a teepee erected on the DAPL worksite. One of the arrestees taken from the teepee was an Elder woman leading the group in prayer. The charges facing the Water Protectors who were praying: felony trespassing and inciting a riot.

"We've been charged with inciting a riot for us just going out there and praying," said Olive, a frontline water protector. "We're not being hostile, we don't even want to have direct interaction with the cops, we have liaisons so we can hold ceremony. And that's what we were doing when we were arrested."

The facilities those arrested are held in are woefully inadequate. "It was very dehumanizing. There were 20 of us to six beds. Most of us had to sleep on the floor," said Flo of his experience in custody. "They say innocent till proven guilty, but it doesn't really feel that way when you're in there."

As for the potential of being convicted, legal council for the accused are taking a wait-and-see approach. "It depends," said Hammel. "There have already been charges that have been dismissed, but who knows? This is a unique situation."

But according to Hammel, "The sheriff seems to be working on behalf of DAPL as much as he can. They've gone to local landowners here and suggested they arm themselves if they don't like what's going on here."

not all protestors have been peaceful. Aggression and actions to incite fear or intimidation are not peaceful activities. Protestors do not have the right to disrupt traffic, close the road, trespass on private property, or disrupt other legal activities. They do not have the right to incite fear in the traveling public, local land owners, workers, first responders or law enforcement."

Mercer County Sheriff Dean Danzeisen painted a more vivid picture. In an

October 3 letter to the US Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior he said the water protectors are not peaceful protestors. "They are armed, hostile, and engaged in training exercises which can only be intended to promote violence, whether on Corps property or elsewhere," Danzeisen wrote. *The Nation* did not observe any weapons beyond standard camping tools such as axes, machetes and knives. The only training exercises were to ensure that there was no violence.

FACTS

The cost to transport crude oil or petroleum products by pipeline is a fraction of the cost of other modes of transportation. The cost to ship crude oil by rail is generally \$10 to \$15 per barrel; it costs less than \$5 per barrel by pipeline.

Dakota Access, LLC (commonly referred to as "DAPL" or "Dakota Access") is a company of Energy Transfer Partners formed to transport American crude oil from the Bakken/Three Forks formations in North Dakota to markets and refineries located in the Midwest, East Coast and Gulf Coast regions of the United States.

CAMP HUMOUR

The *Nation* met Ben-Alex Dupris, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in northeastern Washington state, who has been with his film crew at Standing Rock for eight weeks. He is working on a comedy titled, "Stand Up For Standing Rock." The storyline is based on life in the camp.

One of the rules at the camp is not to take people's pictures without permission. Most of the Native people didn't care but, said Dupris, "If one more non-Native person came up to me and told me not to take their photo, I was going to slap the shit out of them." He was laughing but added, "You want to appropriate our culture, our religion, our

style, our movement, and now you want to appropriate our anger too?"

Dupris spoke about the hardships in the camp. "You learn really quickly that some of the most mundane tasks that you do in your daily life, like buying a bottle of water, or making a phone call, become excruciatingly difficult because you're literally camping. There aren't ven-

dors to sell you French fries if you're hungry because you missed dinner. If you have less than seven miles worth of gas in your tank, you're not going to make it to the casino to get filled up."

The Standing Rock Casino was the only place with wifi for miles around and would be crowded with people texting, Facebooking and using the Internet.

"We take the position that we're here for a good reason, we're doing the best

we can, but sometimes the food is god awful, because I cooked it, and my shoes are dirty, and we're kind of becoming very feral out here. I'd like to have the hygiene gods come back from the past and show us how they actually kept clean in the old days because I'm about ready to twist some dreadlocks," Dupris joked.

"You have to have a sense of humour about the chaos that happens here."

And while tensions simmer in the region, back at camp it's business as usual as they prepare for a long, cold winter. "Our kitchen has grown and now we have a winter tent," said one of the camp's main cooks, Winona Kasto. From the beginning, she's been cooking breakfast, lunch and dinner for 500 people on weekdays, up to 1000 on weekends.

"It's like having a full time job without getting paid, but the benefits are rewarding. The people are great and it's for a good cause," said Kasto. "I cook for all my community's ceremonial events and right now we're in a time of prayer. It's a ceremonial time. That's why I'm here. To help the people."

On the other side of camp, artisans are preparing prints and ripping fabric to produce rain- and snow-proof screenprinted signs. "I work with the artists and try to mass produce them for action," said organizer David Folnick. "I'm a sucker, I love it when we have 30 to 40 flags all out drying."

Life in the camp is a highly organized operation. It begins when the sun rises, and throughout the day, people find purpose contributing to the camp by volunteering and the cause by participating in actions.

"Life has to be an act of willingness or else you're not really living, and praying has to be an act of willingness or you're not really praying," Olive told *the Nation*. "As a Sundancer, the ultimate things we can offer are our bodies. We go out on the front lines and we're praying with our bodies."

Donate and volunteer

The website standingrock.org accepts donations of money. Simply click on the Donate DAPL Fund link. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged. *The Nation* was told that Cree with experience with winter camping would be especially welcome as the camp plans to be there year round.



POWER — VS. — WATER

Courts shut down dam protest
over Labrador's Lower Churchill Project

by Jesse Staniforth
Photos by Ossie Michelin

Labrador Inuk Ossie Michelin was packing his bags and preparing leave Muskrat Falls on the Churchill River west of Happy Valley-Goose Bay last October 17, a day after the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador issued an injunction forcing protestors off the site of the Lower Churchill Project (LCP), commonly known as Muskrat Falls.

That morning, nine protestors were arrested as flooding began.

"My family trapline is gone," said Michelin. "It's been removed. It's under-

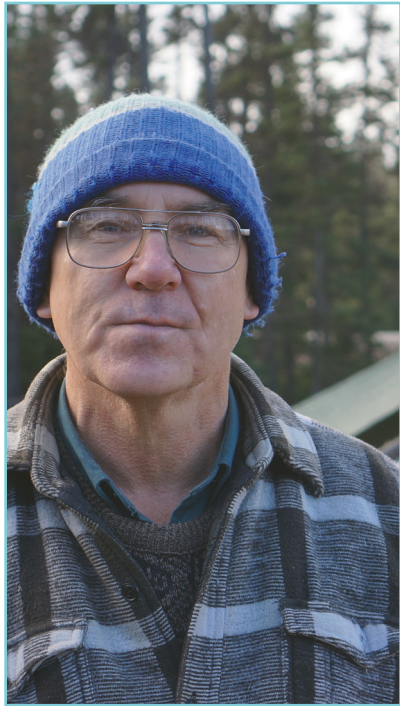
water now – part of it is, anyway. That I've accepted. It's the poisoning of our fish and waters that I can't live with. I refuse to give up my culture and my way of life. I'm going to eat fish from home. I'm going to get mercury poisoning. I don't care. I would rather die eating salmon than die not being a Labradorian."

Michelin is best known as a journalist – he took the iconic photograph of a kneeling woman holding a feather before the line of RCMP during an anti-fracking protest at Elsipogtog,

New Brunswick. But he is above all a Labradorian, born and raised in North West River, and he's left his adopted home and his husband in Montreal to join his home community in their fight against the dam. Like many Labrador Inuit, Michelin has been fighting the project for years, but this week the flooding began.

Built by Nalcor (the Newfoundland/Labrador version of Hydro-Québec), the LCP is commonly known as Muskrat Falls, after the location of its Phase I of building roughly 35 km





from Happy Valley-Goose Bay. However, the project follows on the creation of the Churchill Falls Generating Station, which dammed the Churchill River between 1971 and 1975, flooding 5,000km² of unceded Innu territory.

Nationally renowned Inuit-Métis artist Billy Gauthier, who was born in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and lives in North West River, began a hunger strike demanding changes to the Muskrat Falls project on October 13.

“Yes, I’m scared,” he told CBC Newfoundland-Labrador, “but that’s what bravery is, when you’re scared and you do it anyway.” He said he hoped his profile as an artist will bring attention to the issue.

Since the beginning of construction on Muskrat Falls in 2013, it has been best known

across Canada for running more than 50% over budget (an excess of some \$4 billion) and for misjudging the projected need for electricity. This means the cost of building the dam alone may nearly double hydroelectric rates for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians – from \$0.12 to \$0.22 per kWh – in the next five years.

Nalcor CEO Stan Marshall acknowledged that the project was a boondoggle at a news conference in June, saying, “The Muskrat Falls project was not the right choice. [...] It was a gamble and it’s gone against us.” However, he said, to halt the project now would mean that the province had spent \$6.7-billion, leaving billions more “to settle claims and bring the project to some conclusion, and we would not have a source of power,

which is needed. Stopping the project is not a practical option.”

Indigenous opposition to the project has been split because it is located at precisely the area where Inuit and Innu lands historically met.

“The way it works is this project technically falls upon the Innu lands,” said Ossie Michelin. “The mouth is at the end of Lake Melville, which is where the Innu and the Inuit territories meet. Inuit are a coastal people, Innu are Montagnais – they’re hunters in the mountains. This is where the mountain meets the sea – it’s a very mixed neighbourhood. We all use the water, but the dam itself is technically within the Innu claim.”

The NunatuKavut Community Council and the Nunatsiavut government, which together represent Inuit communities in Labrador, oppose

the project. However, in 2011, the Innu Nation signed the Tshash Petapen (“New Dawn”) Agreement. This provided reparations for loss of land caused by the Churchill Falls project 40 years before, providing 35,000km² of hunting land and \$2-million annually to pay for damages from the flooding, but also paved the way to an agreement from the Innu Nation to support the Muskrat Falls project.

While many Innu still support Muskrat Falls, some have recently come out against it, including Elder Bart Jack, a former president of the Innu Nation.

“Our agreement stated the Innu were going to get a fair shake of the employment and of the training. That has not happened,”

he told *The Independent* of Newfoundland and Labrador. “There’s no clear-cutting, so the mercury contamination will start as soon as the flooding takes over. Once the flooding happens, you’re never going to be able to mitigate that because the trees are going to be underwater.”

Michelin pointed to a study by Professor Elsie Sunderland of the Harvard School of Public Health, who brought her team to study the presence of methylmercury in Lake Melville – into which the Churchill River empties. Sunderland and her colleagues discovered that there was already more methylmercury in the water than they expected. But it is estimated methylmercury would increase by between

25% and 200% following the flooding at the Lower Churchill Project.

“The government said, ‘Trust the people that we pay, don’t trust the Harvard scientists,’” said Michelin. “But we already have elevated methylmercury levels as a result of Churchill Falls, which is 300 km upstream. This dam is 35 km upstream from where we hunt and fish. And the province only studied the mouth of the river. They said it was fine, they’ll do compensation and monitoring. Well, we don’t want just that. But you know what? When we start getting sick, they’re going to fight us then too. They’ll say, ‘Hey, you could have gotten that mercury from anywhere.’ You know how these things work – they’ll make it as dif-

ficult as possible, there’ll be a bunch of court cases, and we’re all going to die early deaths.”

Michelin, argues the project violates the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It may also violate the Federal Fisheries Act by threatening the habitat of salmon, trout and other fish, he added, saying that violation might move Ottawa to intervene.

“They’d just better make sure they’re not going to poison us when they flood it,” he said. “That’s the situation we’re in – be poisoned or not be poisoned are our options, but we’re not necessarily the ones who get to choose the answer.”

Hydlo and FRIENDS Online

TO BE WON:
— AN —
**iPad
Air**



CONTEST
**Pick your
favorite video
and get a
chance to win
an iPad Air**

🔗 *Marking the end of the cisco follow-up*



Sanders Weistche, Tallyman
Trapline N2, Waskaganish



Feast
Waskaganish, June 2015

🔗 *Measuring the use of the large spawning
ground near Sarcelle powerhouse*



Jimmy Kakabat
Field worker, Wemindji



Garry Salt
Lab technician, Waskaganish

Enter now at **www.hydloandfriends.com**



Hallowed weather

by Sonny Orr

Halloween is on the tip of everyone's tongue as the scary, hairy, beautiful, ridiculous and just plain crazy costumes are dug out of the closet. It's a bit like the Mardi Gras of the north, with kids in cute costumes running from doorway to doorway and parents close by in their SUVs comfortable in the warmth of their heated cabin. Around this time of the year, Old Man Winter wakes up and starts shaking off some snowflakes and spreading cold weather everywhere.

Brrrr... the kid in the Superman outfit seems impervious to anything Mother Nature dishes out, while no one in clown outfits are allowed to venture anywhere near gas stations and restaurants. Some bright one has a scary outfit – Donald Trump with a big sign loudly stating “I WON!” Not too many zombies this year as scary seems to be leaning more to old-fashioned vampires and ghouls.

Hopefully, there won't be too much to be afraid of weather-wise next month. November, the most travelled month of the year, sees a doubling in flight or travel cancellations. Make sure that those winter tires are on, as the spin-roo and doughnuts in the snow are apt to happen to those who don't know how to drive in northern climes. As far as flying, if you're heading north, pack an extra set of long johns, and make sure your phone is fully charged and filled with time-passing games, as your flight is guaranteed to be cancelled at least twice in November. That is, if you are a frequent traveller who likes missing important meetings and being stranded nowhere near cellphone service – in



other words, with no way of delivering your excuse to the chairperson.

On the bright side, if you happen to wander off somewhere after your crash on the James Bay Highway, at least you have your tracks in the snow to follow back to safety. Unless, you happen to be incredibly dumb like those actors in silly movies who always walk away from their vehicle mere metres away from the highway. Sometimes, these silly people actually thrash about in thick bush for hundreds of miles trying to follow the North Star only to end up on the other side of the road weeks later. Don't ask me but I'm sure it has happened to someone.

If you're heading north, **pack an extra set of long johns**, and make sure your phone is fully charged and filled with time-passing games, as **your flight is guaranteed to be cancelled at least twice in November.**

and the only thing left to do is to cook and eat your beast. Further north, the once mighty herds of caribou will start their winter migration to the comfort of the timbered woods of interior Quebec. The sports hunter is now not part of the scene, as this annual event

spurred a lot of anxiety amongst Cree trappers and hunters from many scary near misses involving flying bullets. Hopefully, this type of sports hunting will end as Mother Nature had intended that big game be hunted only for consumption.

Thankfully, the world has learned from the demise of the western bison. The new political stance is to at least pay lip service to protecting the environment. Nevertheless, profits seem to outweigh common sense and the development of the North continues – much to the chagrin of the traditionalist, who prefers the land be left alone to the inhabitants of the forests and taiga. This story will continue and the Elders of today, who happen to be just a little older than me, have some traditional stories left to tell the next generation. Alas, my memories only go back to the 1960s. Still, I have retained the stories of my parents and grandparents and from anyone else with stories passed on to them that stretch back centuries.

Today, the laughter of children, the scream of an excited trick-or-treater, the candies and games are what keeps our memories happy for the time being. I just want to scare the heck out of kids so that they have a memory of going to my darkened doorway for a freebie.

Boooohaaaahahahahaaa!

Here's to your **health**

Under the Northern Sky
by Xavier Kataquapit



These high protein foods have replaced meat in my diet to a great degree although from time to time I will have a burger, a roast of beef, moose roast, pork tenderloin, beef steak, spaghetti and meatballs and even the odd poutine. Happily, I have not found it so hard to pick up on healthy foods like vegetables, legumes and fruit. I also drink a lot of tea, some coffee and so much water.

As a result of this change in my diet I have lost more than 20 pounds and I know that my blood sugar levels are very good. Prior to changing my diet I was sick a lot during the year with flu, stomach problems and a general feeling of being tired most of the time. These days I notice that I am rarely sick and I do have more energy. I have discovered a real taste for raw vegetables and my day is not complete unless I am having a meal with plenty of raw carrots, lettuce, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, onion and cucumbers. I am also trying to get a brisk, 30-minute walk in at least four times a week.

I hope that if you are having problems with heart disease, diabetes and being overweight that you can take some encouragement from me and make the move to change your lifestyle. It might seem like a difficult thing to do, but after a little effort you will find that eating more vegetables, legumes and fruit and less meat and fried foods you will improve your health substantially. I have a few people I look up to on how to lead a healthy lifestyle. My good friend Alana Pierini and my sister-in-law Christine Rose have been following healthy diets for decades and they look half their age, so I know it works. We need more resilient Northerners who play hard, party moderately, eat healthy and get a lot of exercise.

With winter on the way I see a lot of people out and about in town wanting to connect with others. Northerners are resilient folk but we also follow hard lifestyles. We tend to pride ourselves as big party types. Many of our northern towns and cities have an abundance of places where we can drink until we drop. Few are into moderation.

When we are teens and up to middle age our bodies and minds are capable of taking a lot of abuse. However, now as I have reached the ripe old age of 40, I realize that some parts of my past are catching up with me. I am very grateful that I got sober 20 years ago and that has really helped me to fulfill some of my dreams with a more-or-less happy life.

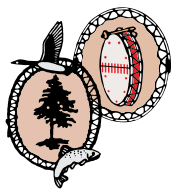
These days I am beginning to feel the aches and pains of arthritis and I do not have the stamina I once had. A couple of decades ago I could work all day with few breaks in construction, logging, transport and freight duties and moving on the land. Perhaps I am suffering from male menopause in that I am taking stock of myself at the age of 40. One thing for sure is that this year has been a huge marker and milestone in my life. Much of that has to do with

the fact that my mom Susan passed away this summer.

I am also watching old friends and family age with numerous health issues. Many have heart disease and diabetes for the most part. In recent years I have been educated on how diet and unhealthy lifestyles contribute mainly to these diseases and also cancers. For too many years my diet was high in fat and sugar. That is a killer combination.

Too many northerners have terrible diets filled with junk food. For years I had a steady diet of burgers, fries, poutine, fried chicken, lots of meat, huge amounts of carbs like bread, pasta and potatoes, and sugar-filled treats. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy some of these foods, but as a treat here and there.

I am terrified to develop heart disease or diabetes as many of my family members and friends have. For that reason I gave up smoking and drinking 20 years ago. For the last few years I have been trying to follow a diet high in fibre and nutrition. That means I am eating more raw vegetables in all kinds of salads. I am also eating black beans, lentils, kidney beans and chickpeas as all of these foods are high in protein.



WORKING

TOGETHER

FOR SAFER

AND ENGAGED

COMMUNITIES

You have a project that could help make your community a better place?

Apply now

CREE JUSTICE FUNDS

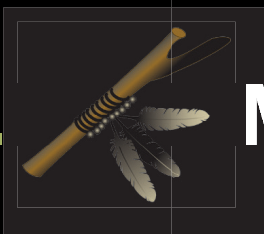
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FUND

CORRECTIONS FUND

CRIME PREVENTION FUND

Through these funds, the DOJCS (Department of Justice and Correctional Services) provides financial assistance to community members willing to implement initiatives that facilitate and improve the administration of justice for the Crees across Eeyou Istchee.

Be engaged.



Make a difference.

For details, please visit the DOJCS website at: <http://creejusticefunds.ca> or phone (418) 923-2661, ext. 1180.



airCreebec

Your Northern Airline of choice!

We offer discounted rates and seat sales.*



For reservations, charters or information

Call toll-free: **1-800-567-6567**

Website: **www.aircreebec.ca**

*certain conditions apply to seat sales